

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,
CHAIRMAN

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
STEVEN C. LaTOURETTE, OHIO
DOUG OSE, CALIFORNIA
RON LEWIS, KENTUCKY
JO ANN DAVIS, VIRGINIA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH
ADAM H. PUTNAM, FLORIDA
EDWARD L. SCHROCK, VIRGINIA
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
CANDICE MILLER, MICHIGAN
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE
PATRICK J. TIBERI, OHIO
KATHERINE HARRIS, FLORIDA

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
TTY (202) 225-6852

www.house.gov/reform

May 18, 2004

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
Wm. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,
MARYLAND
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,
INDEPENDENT

The Real Story on Government Paperwork Increases

Dear Colleague:

Tomorrow, the House Republicans will go to the floor to rail against government regulations and paperwork. They will talk about how government strangles small businesses in miles of red tape. They will say that companies spend money filling out forms rather than hiring workers. The Republicans will blame paperwork for the weak economy.

But they probably won't talk about who is to blame for increasing paperwork. **That's because the fact is that the Bush Administration and the Republican Congress have presided over record *increases* in paperwork requirements.**

This is yet another example of the gap between what the Republicans talk about and what they do. The attached report details the contrast between President Bush's rhetoric on paperwork and the dramatic rise in the paperwork burden during his Administration.

In speech after speech, President Bush emphasizes that "we must reduce unnecessary government regulation and red tape so businesses can focus on consumers and customers, not paperwork."

In reality, however, total government paperwork has increased under the Bush Administration to an estimated 8.1 billion hours in fiscal year 2003. **Last year, Americans spent over 700 million more hours filling out government paperwork than in the last year of the Clinton Administration.** The largest annual increase in paperwork burden ever measured occurred under the Bush Administration in fiscal year 2002.

Statutory changes promoted by President Bush and enacted by the Republican majority in Congress, particularly to the tax code, are among the largest sources of the increased paperwork burden. The Administration is also pursuing new regulatory changes that will impose additional paperwork burdens on Americans. These include increased paperwork requirements for low-income families and punitive reporting requirements for labor unions.

(over)

I urge you to read the attached report for the real story on what President Bush and the Congressional Republicans have been doing on paperwork — increasing it!

Sincerely,

/s Henry A. Waxman

/s John F. Tierney

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member

John F. Tierney
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Energy Policy,
Natural Resources and Regulatory
Affairs

Enclosure